WE CLAIM:

1.   A method of scanning a job on a document-processing device when a print path is not available, the device having a printer job channel, the method comprising:

5   upon initiating a job, determining that a printer job channel is not available;

scanning the job;

spooling the job to a mass storage device; and

storing the job in the mass storage device until the printer job
10   channel becomes available.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein initiating a job includes user input on a control panel on the device.

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3.   The method of claim 1, wherein initiating a job includes triggering a media sensor on the device.

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4.   The method of claim 1, which further comprises, upon determining that a printer job channel is not available, requesting user input selecting whether to proceed with the job.

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5.   The method of claim 1, wherein spooling the job to a mass storage device includes storing the job as a data file.

6.   The method of claim 1, wherein the mass storage device is a volatile memory.

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7.   The method of claim 1, wherein the mass storage device is a non-volatile memory.

8.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

10   periodically checking the status of the printer job channel to review whether the printer job channel becomes available;

     upon determining that the printer job channel becomes available, retrieving the job automatically from the mass storage device; and

     printing the job.

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9.   The method of claim 8, wherein printing the job includes sending the copy job through a print engine via the available printer job channel.

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10.   A document-processing device which is configured to concurrently scan a first job and print a second job, the device comprising:

     a copy module configured to scan a first job to produce scanned

25   images of the first job,

     a mass storage device coupled with the copy module; and

     a printer module coupled with the copy module, the printer module having a controller configured to temporarily direct the scanned images to the mass storage device when the printer module is otherwise engaged.

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11.   The device of claim 10, wherein the mass storage device is integral with the printer module.

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12.   The device of claim 10, wherein the mass storage device is integral with the copy module.

13.   The device of claim 10, wherein the controller is further

10   configured to automatically retrieve the scanned images from the mass storage device when the printer module is not otherwise engaged.

14.   The device of claim 10, wherein the mass storage device is

15   non-volatile memory.

15.   The device of claim 10, wherein the mass storage device is a storage disk.

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16.   A medium readable by a document-processing device, the medium having embodied therein instructions executable by the document-processing device to perform the steps of:

determining the availability of a printer job channel;

5   directing the scanned images of a job to a mass storage device when the printer job channel is not available;

retrieving the scanned images of the job from the mass storage device automatically when the printer job channel is available; and

transferring the scanned images to the available printer job

10   channel for printing.